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GROUP EXERCISES

FLORA J. COOKE

Definite efforts have been made to bring the morning exercises into touch with the children's natural interests outside the school. The different grades have been canvassed, and the pupils asked if there were subjects about which they would like to have exercises given. Airships, submarine boats, vacation experiences, Indians, and electricity were among the topics which were requested. On one occasion, a group of high-school boys on their own initiative, took up the subject of airships, planned an exercise, executed drawings, and made an interesting presentation.

The children's interests in collections have been recognized, and profitable exercises have resulted. On a chosen morning, every child who wished to exhibit a collection of stamps, coins, stones, pictures, or curios, brought it to the school, and set it up in some class room. There were different rooms for different kinds of collections. People who wished to see the exhibits of coins went to the coin room; those who wished to see stamps went to the stamp room. The plan had the added advantage of breaking up grade lines and bringing children of different ages into small social groups.

At other times, we have had the children divided, according to their strongest interests, into groups for games, music, charades, and story-telling; at other times they have chosen between hearing a talk upon some science subject and listening to reading of some good story. The chairmen of these groups have sometimes been children, sometimes teachers.

As the study of French and German begins in the third grade, another form of divided exercise has been to have all the pupils of the school who understand French meet in one place for French games, songs, and dramatizations, while the German groups met in another place for a similar exercise in German.

At one time a question box was placed in the hall, and into it children put science questions which they would like to have answered. This took complicated directing and has since been better organized but the need of a means of satisfying individual interests and questions is an important phase in morning-exercise planning.

THE QUESTION TYPE OF MORNING EXERCISE

WALLACE F. WORTHLEY

A special type of morning exercise on children's expressed interests has developed recently which permits an informal discussion to take